

APRIL 2024 #5

# A WORD WITH WALSHY

[peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au)

03 5482 2039

25TH APRIL

# ANZAC DAY

*Lest We Forget*

- *ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS*
- *SEYMOUR ALTERNATIVE FARMING EXPO*
- *WOMEN IN SERVICE*
- *SIGNING UP FOR PARKINSON'S FIGHT*
- *SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR KOKODA*
- *LIZ'S OAM*

# ANZAC DAY



April is always a very 'military' month, and this year it was my privilege to be invited to address Swan Hill's Anzac Day Commemorative Service.

At which I was able to talk about the next generation taking on the responsibility of making sure the story of Australian men and women who have served – and who have paid the ultimate sacrifice – continues to be told, to be kept alive.

As well as those serving today, and who will be in the years to come.

In particular I referred to Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill student Billy O'Toole (below middle) who with the support of Swan Hill RSL, will be joining other students from my electorate as Colin Sinclair scholars, travelling to Papua-New Guinea to walk the Kokoda Trail as representatives of their communities (see separate story).



# ANZAC DAY



Earlier in the morning I had joined a huge crowd at Echuca's annual Dawn Service, which just keeps growing in size and support every year. No-one wants to fight a war, no-one wants our young men and women to die in battle, but none of us must ever forget those who did stand up, who did die, and whose families and friends were forced to live with that loss. Lest we forget.

## SMALL FARM EXPO A BIG SUCCESS

The Seymour Alternative Farming Expo is always a success story in the burgeoning hobby farm and small farms industry. And when it was staged recently the Nats were there in strength to support our smaller scale agri-enterprises. It's always a highlight of the year for me, seeing how people with small holdings are able to produce some incredible products – in amazing numbers or volumes. It was another big stage for the small farms sector to celebrate its innovation and exciting potential.



Above L - R:  
MPs Kim O'Keffe, Annabelle Cleeland & Peter Walsh.

# WOMEN IN SERVICE

I was honoured to be invited to take part in the first Women In Service commemoration, held at Moama RSL. It started with a moving service in the Moama RSL Memorial Gardens before shifting into the Moama RSL Poppies on Merool venue for lunch.

Where we heard from Commander Helen Ward RAN and Brigadier (Retd) Bernadette Boss (below left & centre) - who both had remarkable stories of their own careers and the way the military has moved its position on women in the services.

It was a fabulous idea by Moama RSL Sub-Branch member Pam Culph (below right - centre) to recognise the role of women in Australia's military history, stretching back to the Boer War (1899-1902) and continuing today.

It was a day and a job very well done and congratulations to everyone involved.





## SIGNING UP FOR THE PARKINSON'S FIGHT

In Echuca, Jeanette Branch has always wanted a 'Fight Parkinsons Walk' in the Park fundraiser for more years than she can remember.

And having lived with Parkinson's for the past 17 years, she recently got her wish, when a goodly crowd turned out on a slightly chilly morning for the inaugural event. It was my pleasure to wish the walkers and supporters well and be official starter for the walk-off.



Before the walkers set off, Fight Parkinson's announced Jeanette as the cause's biggest single fundraiser – and she does an equally good job in the awareness department. So congratulations to everyone involved in this very worthy cause and thank you for the invitation to participate in the day (special mention to the Kiwanis, who supplied the free sausage sizzle - great community supporters).



# LOCAL KIDS HEADED FOR KOKODA

I rose in Parliament this week – on behalf of everyone in my electorate of Murray Plains – to congratulate Cora Wilson, Oakley Tarrant, Matilda Sowter, Billy O’Toole and Layne Trevena on receiving Colin Sinclair Scholarships to trek the Kokoda Trail later this year.

These Year 11 students from Swan Hill, Kyabram, Rochester and Echuca-Moama will join other students from around the state in a trip organised by members of The Nationals. They are going with the generous financial support of Moama Bowling Club, the Kyabram Club, Swan Hill RSL and Freemasons Foundation Victoria.

This is about the next generation taking on the responsibility of making sure the story of Australian men and women who have served – and who have paid the ultimate sacrifice – continues to be told, to be kept alive. Their journey to Papua-New Guinea, as representatives of their communities, is the next chapter, a new chapter, in the story and one which I hope they will all share when they return.

## IT’S OFFICIALLY REAL

In many ways my wife Liz says having her OAM still feels so very surreal. Particularly after we dropped into Government House for the Vice-Regal seal of authority, as Liz was presented with her Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) by Governor Margaret Gardner before family and friends.

It was a great occasion for the whole family, and we would like to thank all of you who sent in your congratulations and best wishes – they were truly appreciated.

